THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The report was received on the 10th August 1950. The recommendations contained in it have been examined after obtaining the remarks of the Heads of the Departments concerned and decisions thereon will be taken shortly."

Grievances of the Highways Maistris.

* 838 Q.—SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM (on behalf of Sri D. Krishnamurthy Gounder): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what action has been taken by the Government on the memorandum of grievances presented by the Madras Provincial Highways Maistris' Association, to the Hon. the Minister for Public Works on the 30th July 1951;

(b) why the Government changed the designation of the Road Maistris into Road Inspectors;

(c) whether their status in service and scale of pay have been raised by such change; and

(d) whether their services have been regularized?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) The grievances were examined by the Government and a reply was sent to the Association in June 1953.

" (b) The designation has not been changed.

" (c) Does not arise.

" (d) No. The question is under examination."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know the reply that was sent to the Association? " 8-50 p.m.

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have not got the substance of the reply now. I think I have answered some time back in reply to another question that their grievances will be looked into."

Reserved forests taken over by the Government as a result of the merger of Pudukkottai State.

* 839 Q.—SRI R. M. PALANIAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of reserved forests taken over by the Government consequent on the merger of Pudukkottai State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Ten Reserved Forests have been taken over by the Forest Department consequent on the merger of Pudukkottai State."